

Case Study: Hawaii Governor's 2011-2018 SustainWDN™ Pathway: Sustainable Education



SustainWDN™ Pathway: Sustainable Education Governor's Goal: 100% Renewable Energy by 2045

Impact

- Championed the **Sustainable Education Resolution** requires all Hawaii students to have one course on sustainability passed by House & Senator in 6 months.
- **Sustainable Hawaii Toolkit:** Institute's 1st online education platform for *all* educators to teach sustainability to *all* students.

Our Partners

- Hawaii Governor David Ige
- Hawaii Depart Business, Economic Development & Tourism
- Hawai'i Community College, Hilo
- Hawai'i Preparatory Academy
- Kanu o ka 'Aina, Hawaiian Immersion Schools
- Maui Community College's Lanai Education Center
- Oceanit • Design Thinking Hawaii
- West Hawaii Explorations Academy
- Windward Community College
- Senators Tokuda & Representatives Lowen and Evans
- University of Hawaii's N. Hawaii Education & Research Center

Video: [Hawaii Highlights: 2010-2017](#)
[Website](#) • [Press](#)

The Institute aligned with Governor's goal -- empowering youth to work with government, community and education leaders to pass the nation's first Sustainable Education Resolution and design an online Platform to enable teachers to bring sustainable education to all Hawaii students.

The Challenges

- Hawaii Governor was the nation's first to set the goal of achieving 100% Renewable Energy by 2045.
- Governor gave financial incentives to Asian investors & start-ups
- Hawaii's workforce was untrained for jobs to support this goal.
- Hawaii has lowest teacher pay and highest cost of living in U.S. They struggle to retain teachers, especially STEM teachers.
- Sustainability and climate education were not taught in schools.
- Hawaii's students are eager to learn about sustainable careers so they can help protect and preserve their beautiful islands.

Strategic Implementation

- Hawaii business, government, education leaders nominated students for the **Institute's Fellows Program** to develop a new generation of action-oriented young/emerging leaders.
- **SustainWDN™ Survey** aligned with UNSDG determined priorities: food security, water and renewable energy: [Report](#)

Program

- Hosted **Design Sustainable Hawaii Forum**
- Youth trained at Sustainability Summits on Martha's Vineyard
- Youth envisioned/developed Sustainability-In-Action Plans
- Held year-round leadership program including Job Shadow Days & Sustainable Hawai'i Tours

Hawaii is at the forefront of both experiencing the impacts of climate change and of implementing innovative policies to reduce the State's contributions to its causes, and the work and support of organizations like the Stone Soup Leadership Institute are an integral part of these efforts.

Hawaii State Representative Nicole Lowen

The Institute's Cronkite Award for Climate Education 2023